Network Expansion Project

Progress Report

January 31, 2008

The Legislature approved a one-time only expenditure of $6,687,000 to upgrade the State's data network. There are five primary areas of need that are being addressed in the Network Expansion Project including: 1) Internet bandwidth and redundancy, 2) Fiber upgrades on the Capitol Complex, 3) Network Management tools to better monitor and troubleshoot network problems, 4) a non-state security zone (DMZ) to support local government, education and contractor connections to the network, and 5) bandwidth upgrades for remote offices throughout the state.

A separate but critical component of this project was the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for statewide transport services. Two communication vendors submitted proposals, proposals have been evaluated by a multi-agency evaluation team, and an intent to award has been issued. While contract details are still being ironed out, the new contract will result in technology and bandwidth improvements for many state offices throughout the state. A letter of intent to award a contract has been sent to Bresnan Communications whose proposal was judged most technically superior and cost-effective.

Work has already started on upgrades to the Capitol Complex fiber plant, Internet portals and management tools. The Network Technology Services Bureau is testing new firewall technologies that will allow us to upgrade future capabilities and throughput in a modular manner versus having to replace the entire unit. Planning for remote site upgrades will begin as soon as contract discussions with Bresnan Communications are complete.